

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Play: *Task*
Troupe: Shomarker Naya Shru
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 6
Time: 7pm

Theatre
Play: *Shylock and Sycophants*
Troupe: Theatrewala
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 8; Time: 7pm

Cultural Programme
Participant: China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 9-10

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: *Shadobesher Pathik*
Photographer: Shahadat Parvez
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H 60, Rd 7/A, Dhanmondi

Film Festival
Venue: Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhanmondi
Date: June 4-9
Time: 5pm-6:30pm

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: *Freefall*
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: May 24-June 11

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: *Tribute to Great Master Saffuddin Ahmed*
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, B-16/W/6, Dhanmondi
Date: June 5-16

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: *Heritage & Panoramic Beauty of Bangladesh*
Artist: Abdur Rob Dalal
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

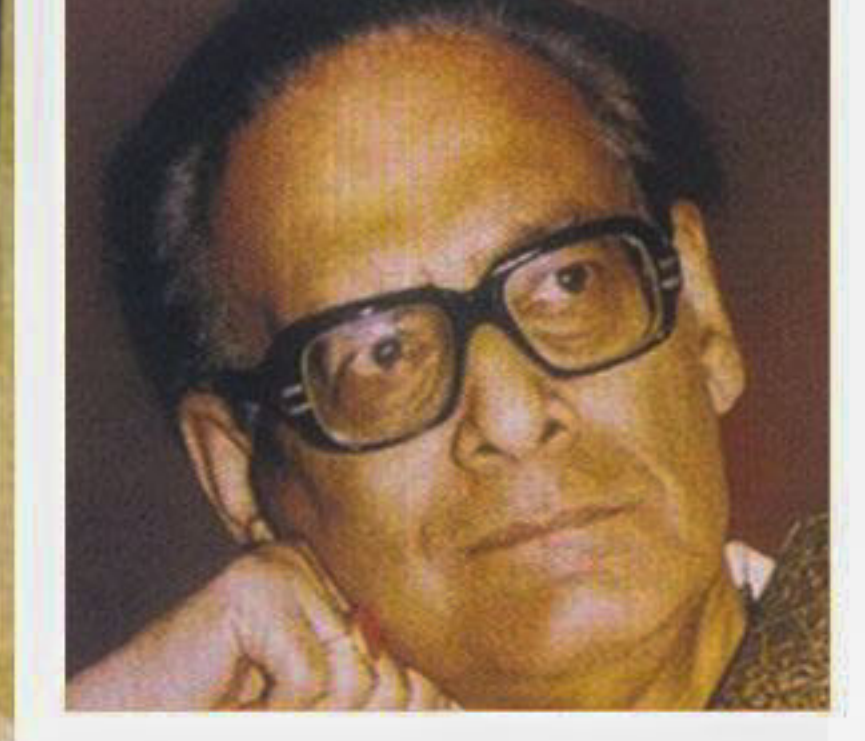
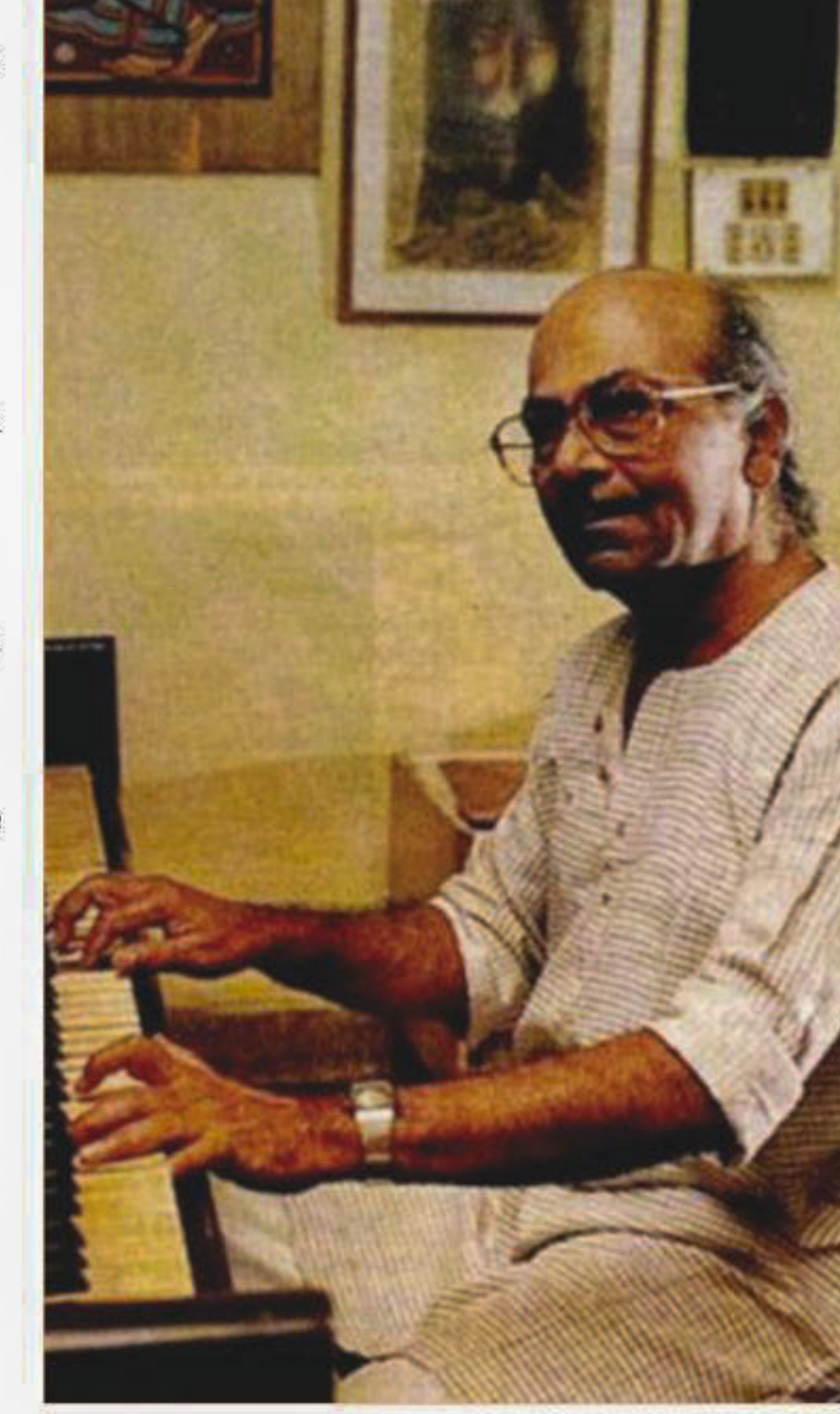
Of Men, Music and Movies

HQ CHOWDHURY

It was an Indian Airlines flight from Madras (now Chennai) to Calcutta (Kolkata). The plane in full had a copybook take off. The smiling flight attendants were doing their job with utmost care. A young man in the front row was flicking through the pages of *Filmfare* magazine; the girl in the window seat was hooked to *Femina*. A sixty plus lean and thin gentleman with grey hair took a copy of *The Daily Hindu* from the airhostess, while a pot-bellied man first stretched out his arms and then lighted a cigarette (it was the time when smoking was allowed in the aircraft). Suddenly a jolt sent tremors to all. In seconds, the plane swung to the left and then a nasty drop in altitude followed. The next twenty-five minutes were bizarre with hue and cry all over; the plane was caught in a storm.

But up there, in one of the aisle seats was a man oblivious to all these except for the occasional effort to reposition himself due to the bumps and sudden turns of the aircraft. His forefinger almost continuously tapped the armrest of the seat. When the plane finally landed, the man just walked out as if nothing had happened. A few months later, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay's *Ami jhorer kachey rekhe gelam amar thikana* hit the market in West Bengal to beat all in the game. It was the work of Saill Chowdhury, a music mind like no other. He had conceived the entire song during that horrifying flight; from its lyrics and tunes to its orchestra.

In 1950, refugees from the then East Pakistan thronged the Ballygunje area in South End Park, Calcutta. Sachin "Karta" (Dev Burman) from the balcony of his newly built two-storied house watched the despair of a refugee who with his Bangla dhol was drumming his pains for being uprooted from his motherland. He immediately summoned poet Mohini Chowdhury through his tabla partner, Brajen Biswas. The poet obliged and *Karta* gave him the song summary. Mohini Chowdhury wrote, *Shei je dinguli, banshi bajanor dinguli, bauler dinguli bhatiali dinguli, aaj piche dakey... baaje tak dum tak dum baaje, baaje bhanga dhol, an all time best until the song was 'remixed' with Meera Dev Burman's lyrics. Baaje tak dum tak dum baaje Bangladeshher dholi* in 1971 to become a popular song in



(Clockwise from left) Saill Chowdhury, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and DL Roy.

Bangladesh. Turn round 180 degree and take a step about fifteen years and you would find a disturbed Inanendra Prasad Goswami, nephew of Tagore's mentor, Radhika Prasad Goswami of Vishnupur gharana, in Ustad Zamiruddin Khan's music cell. He was rejected by Tagore in connection with the rendition of *Aulpo loiya* thaki that had strains of Raga Chhayanaut. A disappointed Jnan "Goshai", as he was popularly known, vented out the episode. Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was there too. He patiently listened to the story, closed his eyes for a while and then lifted his pen. In a few minutes he wrote, *Shunno a bukey pakhi mor aaye* in the same metre. The song registered a massive hit that eclipsed *Aulpo loiya thaki*. To most men in music, some of the finest tunes or lyrics owe to circumstantial factors. A long jump in the same direction to

cover decades. Tagore discovered a young man taking a daily walk in the late afternoon down the road adjacent to the beautiful garden of the "Jorasanko" home. His effort was not for his health but only to take a glimpse of the beautiful Indira. Tagore had a sweet connection with his sister in law and so he penned the teaser, *Sloki prota din hai eshey phirey jaye ke, Tarey amar malar ekti kushum dey*. We will never know whether the story is true or a joke. But it is funny. So, here is another one on Tagore. It was a moonlit night and Tagore had two guests, Amal Hom and Charu Bandyopadhyay. The three of them chatted until late hours when the guests finally retired. Suddenly, there was some crooning somewhere. The guests tracked down the voice and found the poet sitting on a big marble slab skillfully trying to blend his lyrics and tunes. It was the shaping of

Jyotsna raatey shobai gechey bon-e.

Didn't someone say, "In Bengal, every time a gentle wind blows, either a poet or a composer is born?" Rajanikanta Sen had poetry in his breath. He recited in pujas and functions, extempore. During the 1905 partition of Bengal, Tagore and others were out in the streets protesting the British action. Rajanikanta arrived from Darjeeling and checked in to his friend's mess. The locals spotted him and requested a patriotic song for them. He pulled out his pen from his "book pocket" took a paper and immediately penned, *Mayer deya mata kapod*.

In the early part of his life, DL Roy was a Settlement Officer in the court. One day, he returned home to find his teenage wife, Shurobala, spring a surprise. With a mile long smile, she bedecked him with a garland of flowers, plucked fresh. Pleased as punch, DL Roy immediately wrote, *Ami shara shokali boshey boshey ei shadher malaai gethechi*.

Then we have someone who lived with only music, the Dhaka-born successful lawyer from Lucknow, Atul Prasad. Shorn of a proper matrimonial life all through that stemmed out of his mother's second marriage and his own (the married his first cousin), he sought solace in music. Some of his finest compositions emerged under very tragic circumstances. Once he returned home early to find his wife, the stubborn Hemkumsum, burning his favourite suits, jackets and trousers that he had bought in London. He went back to his office immediately and wrote, *Jabo na jabo na jabo na ghorey*. With time, Atul Prasad and his wife started living separately in Lucknow and would be only together on special occasions. Tagore was once Atul Prasad's guest and Hemkumsum with her son joined them. A visibly happy Atul Prasad wrote, *Aaj amar shunno ghorey ashilo shundar ogo onek din-er porey*. But as soon as Tagore left, Hemkumsum with the son bade goodbye too. A dejected poet now wrote, *Ogo nithur daradi eki khelchho onu khon*. It was raining all through, evening till midnight; the poet just completed writing a piece. He now sang by the window in the wilderness of isolation, *Need nahi aankhi patee, amio ekaki tumon ekaki*. Many years later, it was now Hemkumsum on the piano with this tune. Only Atul Prasad was no more.

The writer is a music and film buff.

Nazrul Abriti Parishad observes National Poet's birth anniversary



Artistes recite at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Bangladesh Nazrul Abriti Parishad (BNAP) organised a programme to observe the 113th birth anniversary of the National Poet at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library in Dhaka on June 2.

Professor Shaila Ahmed, vice president of BNAP, delivered the welcome speech at the function, titled "Nazrul, a poet of love and equality".

Elocutionists of BNAP recited poems and songs of the National Poet. Abdul Hye Sikder, former executive director of Nazrul Institute and Nasim Ahmed, president of BNAP, delivered speeches.

Sikder, also the guest speaker at the programme, praised the Parishad for holding such an event that featured a collection of Nazrul's works.

He recalled Dhumketu, the famed political magazine of which Kazi Nazrul Islam was the editor, bringing dynamic change in journalism after it was published on December 27, 1922, from Calcutta.

Nazrul was a man whose poetic work caused patriots to rise up against colonial rule in unison, he added. Addressing the programme, Nasim said BNAP is the only organisation in the country that works for extending the recitation of Nazrul poetry nationally.

Following the discussion, a poem was rendered by Quazi Jamnatan Naime Shimu, one of the artistes of BNAP, to a packed audience.

Later, Badiuzzaman and Tanzina Akhtari Mousumi performed a duet of "Gopan Priya". A group rendition of "Jago Shundor Chiro Kishor" by children followed. A dance was also performed to a recitation of a Nazrul poem by Aisa Akhtar Hashi.

Among others, Mohammad Yusuf, Farah Binte Bashir, Jahirul Islam, Abdur Rahman, Hossain Ahmed, Atandriela Ahmed, Shaiful Islam and Hasina Akhter recited poetry.

The programme wrapped up with a chorus. This was the fourth programme of BNAP.

Sing with Michael Learns to Rock



Popular Danish pop-soft rock band Michael Learns to Rock will perform for the first time in Bangladesh. This will also provide a great opportunity for a Bangladeshi musician to perform with one of the world's leading bands. The music talent from Bangladesh will be chosen through a contest that will be telecast on Channel 9, according to a press release.

Managing director of Creins Limited [the presenter], Abu Sayeed Zahir, says, "this is the first tour of MLTR in Bangladesh and a local musician will have the opportunity to sing with an internationally acclaimed band. We are very optimistic that we will find a remarkable music talent through this contest".

For registration, contestants can log on to www.singwithmltr.com or can send sms to 2345 typing their <name>

<age> <location>. And for recent updates they can visit www.facebook.com/singwithmltr. From June 7, the television round of the contest will be aired on Channel 9. Of the five final contestants, Michael Learns to Rock will choose the winner to perform with them at the concert.

ITI THEATRE FEST ENDS Seeking diversity in Asian theatre

JAMIL MAHMUD

The weeklong "International Theatre Festival, Seminar and Workshop" that started on May 27 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy saw 25 plays by as many troupes from home and abroad. Four overseas troupes -- two from India and one each from China and UAE -- added some diversity to the fest. However, president of the Bangladesh Centre of ITI, Nasiruddin Yousuff felt that the participation of overseas troupes was inadequate.

The Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) arranged the festival in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The festival ended on June 3.

Demonstrating the diversity of Asian theatre through participation of four overseas troupes may not be feasible, yet it was an opportunity for the Dhaka audience to see some other Asian theatre traditions.

"The Pianist", staged on the last day of the festival by Fujairah Culture and Media Authority, UAE, was a surprise for the Dhaka audience as they are less acquainted with theatre practice in the Middle East. Nanning Yue Opera's "Mouse Daughter's Marriage"

was another notable performance by a non-Bangladeshi troupe. Using poetry, dance and music, "The Pianist" is a monologue from the multi-layered life of an individual who seeks redemption. It is a parable about the condition of a woman in the Arab world. Dr. Malha Abdullah's text has been directed and performed by Latefa Ahrrare (Morocco).

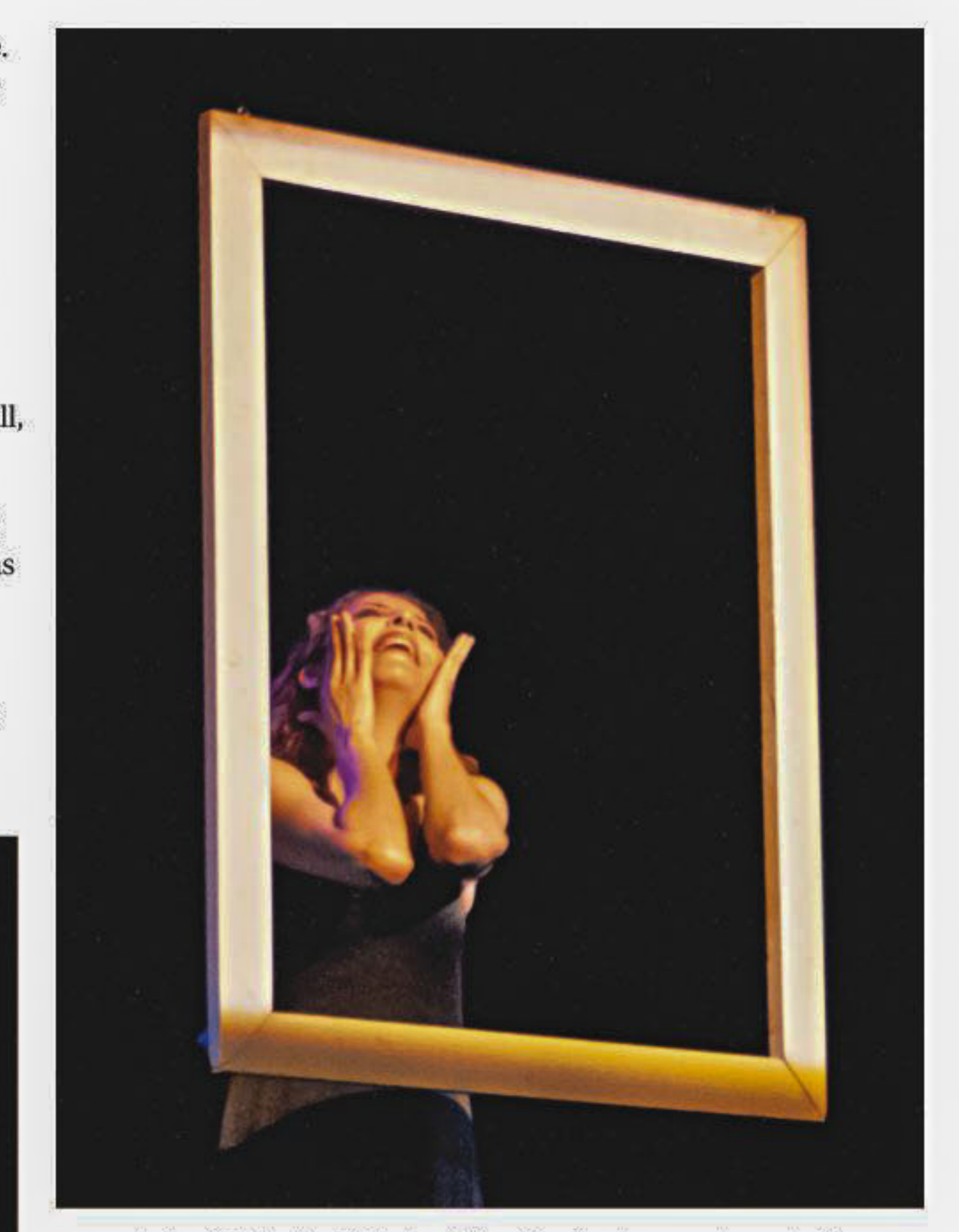
On the other hand, "Mouse Daughter's Marriage" was a vibrant display of Chinese martial art with mimicry and light comedy.

Sandarbh's (India) adaptation of the Tagore short story "Bostomi", that was staged on June 2 at the National Theatre Hall, had a strong impact on the audience. It zooms in on a real life character whom Tagore met during his stay in Shillaidah. The bond between Tagore and a Vaishnavite woman namely Anandi is the subject of the play where the poet makes an appearance as a character. Written by Jhulan Mukhopadhyay and directed by Soumitra Basu, the play saw accomplished actress Avereer Chauraya as Anandi, the Bostomi.

Bangladeshi traditional theatre forms were highlighted at the fest too. Students of the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University



"Bostomi" zooms in on a real life character Tagore met in Shillaidah. "The Pianist" is a monologue from the multi-layered life of an individual (top-right). PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD



staged the folk ballad "Bhetua". A mix of urban and rural dialogues and Dhamer Gaan made the production remarkable. The European styled monodrama, "The Distant Near", staged by local performers, was also praised. Another European styled production was "Medea", staged by Arshi Theatre from India. Two local dance dramas -- "Mayar Khela" by Shadhona and "Shapmochoh" by Pallabi Dance Centre -- demonstrated the South Asian diversity and storytelling through music and dance. Especially, "Mayar Khela" was a treat for the delegates, as Professor Chua Soo Pong of China found it to be "an energetic and beautiful production". Tagore predominantly ruled the festival, as nine plays were either adaptations of his literary works or based on his life. Like Tagore, the Liberation War was another preferred subject for the local theatre troupes.

A workshop on Chinese Opera conducted by Professor Chua Soo Pong and an international seminar highlighting four papers on Asian theatre wrapped up the event, though expectations were higher.

James sings for a Bollywood film again

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The popularity of Nagarbaul's frontman James has spread far and wide across the subcontinent. James won the hearts of music buffs through the song "Bheegi Bheegi", featured in the Bollywood film "Gangster", directed by Mahesh Bhatt.

This time James recorded another song for the Hindi film "Warning". Anubhab Sinha is directing the film. Anubhab has now ascertained a position in Bollywood after directing the film "Ra One" with Shahrukh Khan as the protagonist.

James lent his voice to the song "Bebasi" in a Mumbai studio on June 3. The owners of the studio, Meet Bros-Anjan Ankit, have composed and directed music for the song. The song belongs to the melo-low-rock genre. James' characteristic psychedelic style of rendition is the highlight.

James is back in town after recording the song. "Singing for Bollywood films has certainly been rewarding. The South Asian audience received my song "Bheegi Bheegi" warmly. Anubhab Sinha invited me to record the title song for his film. I gladly obliged. I hope the audience will respond similarly," said James.

James had previously recorded songs for Bollywood films "Life in a Metro" and "Woh Lamhey". "Warning" will be a high budget film -- to be released in 2013. Larger portion of the film will be shot in New Zealand and the island of Fiji. A music video for the song will soon be made and will go on air on all Indian TV channels.

The singer also recorded several popular songs for Bollywood films including "Ashbar Kaley Ashlam Eka" for the film "Moner Sathley Juddho". He also composed the title song for a TV serial named "Choita Pagol". The song attained much popularity. James' solo album "Kaal Jamuna" was out in 2008.



James with Anubhab Sinha.

Jibon-Moroner Shimana Chharaye Film on Tagore and Kadombori Debi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Vice Chancellor of Premier University, Professor Dr. Anupam Sen, said, "Behind every poet there is a muse. Kadombori Debi was one of the sources of inspiration in Rabindranath Tagore's life. Kadombori, Tagore's sister-in-law, was not only an inspiration but also an icon for Bengali women." Sen said this as chief guest at a film screening held at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) last Friday.

Local cultural group 'Krishti' organised the programme on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Tagore. A tele-

film "Jibon-Moroner Shimana Chharaye", directed by Hasina Ahmed Shoma, depicted the role of Kadombori in Tagore's life.

Poet Arun Dashgupta was the special guest at the programme. He said Kadombori had a deep impact on Tagore's creativity.

Hasina Ahmed Shoma, the director of the film, talked about her experiences of making the film.

Later, the guests and audience enjoyed the film featuring Farjana Chobi and Ahmed Rubel in the roles of Kadombori Debi and Rabindranath Tagore respectively.

Organized by The Daily Star. Supported by Standard Chartered. CELEBRATING LIFE FILM WORKSHOP PRESENTS. Course Directors: Nurul Alam Atique, Amitabh Reza, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon. Executive Producers: Bipoti Das Chowdhury, Rafi Hossain. Workshop Films: 2B, Exotic, Joker Tel, Nam Nai, No Golpo, Karth Golep, Kana Masud, Ghun Manush, A Television Virus, Stranger and the City. Workshop Film Directors: Humaira, Mouri, Biplob, Miljanur, Riad, Hasan, Siddiq, Sonet, Shawon, Dhimon, Asraf, Kollol, Sumon, Masud. Assisted by IUB Film Club & Photography Club. INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB) 7th June 2012 Room 7002 (6th Floor) Screening (11am - 1pm) & (2pm - 4pm) Photo Exhibition (11am - 4pm).

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker. ZERO, WHY DO YOU KEEP STANDING AROUND LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON? BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. WELL, FAKE IT! LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES! Henry by Don Trachte. ARTIST'S MODEL WANTED. I'M TOO BUSY TO POSE FOR YOU, HENRY!

ATN BANGLA	04:20 Showbiz World	05:00 Dekha Odekha Cox's Bazar	06:00 Destination Unlimited	08:40 Drama Serial: Chandra Phul Omashophy	10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno
CHANNEL 9	11:05 Sports Time	12:30 Tanika Kothon	01:05 Eghor Cinemar Gaan	03:05 Tele-Film	07:50 Spelling Bee
ntv	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	06:10 Shubho Shondhya	08:15 Siddiqua Kabi's Recipe	09:00 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan	11:30 Drama Serial: Terminal
Desh TV	05:00 Durpath	06:00 Kalpokoker Galpokatha	07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahon	09:45 Music Dot Net	
Diganta TV	11:30 Chitra Bichitra	03:30 Career Line	08:40 Pothey Pothey	09:40 Drama Serial: Choshma	
Masranga Television	10:02 Bangla Feature Film	05:30 Amazing Animals	08:00 Drama Serial: Bye Hobe	11:00 Music Digest	

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhojer Janalay	12:00 No Tension
09:00 Makhoto Jiboney	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Darun Duprey	09:00 Fashon Haters
03:00 Dromata Boleoy	RADIO TORAY FM 89.5
05:00 Shondha Tara	06:00 Green FM
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akushey	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Gaper Shesh Nei	04:00 U Turn
Radio Footi	07:00 Tarey Tu Khe
07:20 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

Boro Bhalobashi Gaan On Boshakhi TV at 08:30pm Documentary Guest: Mohammad Abdul Jabbar

The Full Monty On Fox Movies at 10:55pm Genre: Comedy/Drama Cast: Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson

Radio Chocolate On Desh TV at 08:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Mosharraf Karim, Sumaira Shimu

ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	06:30 Baala Ontor	07:50 Kemon Bajet Chal	08:20 Drama Serial: Chhangkar	10:10 Trinamool Sanglap
Boishakhi TV	11:15 The Business Show	04:15 Shearshori Doctor	05:15 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	08:35 Boro Beshi Bhalobashi Gaan	09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipath
BANGLAVISION	11:00 Reporters Diary	05:20 Nacho Bangladesh	09:05 Nacho Bangladesh	11:25 Music Club	
Rtv	12:35 Bangla Feature Film	09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra Parbar	09:50 Lucky Line	11:30 Drama Serial: Ural	
09:15 Bangla Feature Film	07:00 Money Hour	09:25 Gen X	11:45 Sports Daily		
06:30 Drama Serial: Apon Apon Khela	03:05 Travel Show	03:05 Drama Serial: Jadur Shaha	08:10 Made in Bangladesh	11:45 Sports 24	
02:35 Prelude To A Kiss	04:25 Chain Reaction	07:00 Date Night	08:30 Quarantine		
02:35 Valentine's Day	03:20 No Strings Attached	05:25 The Running Man	07:30 Over the Top		
09:30 Black Water	04:30 Star World	08:30 Desperate Housewives	11:30 The Big Bang Theory		

ATN BANGLA	09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala	08:15pm Bakulpurer Jatri
CHANNEL 9	09:35pm Bheer Bahar	08:15pm Parsha Prototika
ntv	09:45pm Dokkhinopon-er Din	08:30pm Kholokaly
08:00pm Pathoree Kanna	08:40pm Bachelor the Family	

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm	News (English) at 9am, 2pm
CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm	News (Bangla) at 14:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
BTV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm	News (English) at 9am, 5pm
BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am

ATN BANGLA	06:15pm Kothamala	12:00am Zero Hour
CHANNEL 9	12:05pm Trisho Matraa Apna	06:25pm Front Line
ntv	12:30am Ei Shomey	10:40am Tankapag
ETV	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat	07:40pm Our Democracy
11:45pm Shuja Katha	11:45pm Shuja Katha	11:45pm Shuja Katha